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REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herein.

35 USC 103(a)

Claims 1-22 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Chaussade in view Degeilh.

The claims are directed to a laminate article comprising (A) two layers of soft plasticized polyvinylbutyral (PVB) interlayer sheet and (B) a stiff PVB interlayer sheet positioned between the two layers of soft PVB sheet. The soft plasticized PVB interlayer sheets have a T_g in the range of from about 32°C to about 35°C. The stiff PVB interlayer sheet has a T_g of from about 35°C to about 60°C and comprises a bleaching compound in an amount of from about 0.01 to about 0.85 pph. Preferred bleaching compounds are sodium dialkyl sulfosuccinates, such as sodium dioctyl sulfosuccinate (DOSS), organic bisulfites, and inorganic bisulfites.

The Action states that Chaussade teaches a laminate article comprising at least two layers of soft plasticized PVB sheet and at least one layer of a stiff PVB interlayer sheet. The Action recognizes that Chaussade does not teach use of a bleaching compound in the stiff PVB layer. Degeilh is cited as teaching that it is well known in the art to add DOSS to PVB to improve properties. The Action concludes that it would be obvious to use DOSS in the laminates of Chaussade based upon the teachings of Degeilh.

The Action comments on applicants' prior response by stating that the arguments were not found persuasive because the Examiner believes that DOSS is suggested in the prior art and the fact that DOSS is used for a different reason does not change the composition disclosed in the prior art.

Applicants traverse for the reason that Degeilh does not teach the presence of DOSS in the final laminates and therefore the rejection is based upon an improper reading of Degeilh. In fact, the teachings of Degeilh are submitted to lead away from the invention.

The invention is directed to an article comprising a stiff PVB interlayer sheet has a T_g of from about 35°C to about 60°C and comprises a bleaching compound in an amount of from about 0.01 to about 0.85 pph. In contrast, neither of the cited patents teaches an article containing a PVB sheet containing bleaching compound.

Concerning this point, PVB sheets made according to the process of Degeilh do not contain DOSS. This can be seen from the teachings of Degeilh that the DOSS is "completely and inexpensively washed" from the PVB. (See, e.g., column 2, lines 24-27, and column 3, lines 10-15 and 20-24.) Concerning this point, the Examiner's attention is directed to column 3, lines 10-15 and 20-24, which states:

"Unlike conventional emulsifiers which are removed from the polymer by the addition of a base, DOS is completely and

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inexpensively removed from the polymer by a thorough washing with water.”

Given the above teachings in Degeilh, it can be seen that Degeilh does not teach use of DOSS in a sheet. In fact, Degeilh teaches away from such a product by stating that the DOSS is completely removed by washing. Consequently, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

If the USPTO continues this rejection, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner point to the portions of Degeilh that the Examiner believes support the presence of DOSS in the interlayer portion of the resultant laminate.

Support for Amendments

Applicants have amended claim 1 in order to better highlight the fact that bleaching compound is present in the stiff PVB interlayer sheet, and to make the claim internally consistent. Applicants submit that this amendment should be entered after final action since it directly responds to an issue concerning bleaching compound being present and fixes the claims so that they are in better condition for allowance or appeal.

Claim 2 is amended so that it uses the same language as claim 1 and so that it specifies a preferred amount of bleaching compound as described in the first full paragraph on page 8 of the specification.

Claims 3-5 are amended for consistency with claim 1.

Claims 10 and 11 are amended to focus on a preferred amount of bleaching compound as described in the first full paragraph on page 8 of the specification.

Claims 12 and 13 are amended to clarify that the bleaching compound is a sodium dialkyl sulfosuccinate and sodium dioctyl sulfosuccinate, respectively, as supported at page 7, lines 23-32.

Claims 14-16 is amended so that it is consistent with the specification and to remove “and the like.”

Claim 17 is amended to clarify that the stiff polyvinylbutyral interlayer sheet comprises an antioxidant.

Claim 18 is amended to recite that the article comprises two layers of glass laminated to an interlayer as supported throughout the specification and in the Examples. In this regard, please note that Example 1 states that “Laminates were prepared as in Comparative Example C4”, that Example C4 states “stack of PVB sheets was laminated between two pieces of 2.3-mm glass as described in Comparative Example C1”, and Example C1 describes a “glass/PVB/glass assembly.”

Claim 18 is also amended to recite that “the interlayer consists essentially of the stiff polyvinylbutyral interlayer sheet positioned between the two layers of soft polyvinylbutyral sheet.” This amendment is well supported throughout the specification as the specification describes this embodiment. (See, e.g., page 5, first paragraph.)

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Claim 18 also recites that "the stiff polyvinylbutyral sheet comprises from about 22% to about 70% of the total interlayer thickness and has a thickness in the range of from about 0.50 mm to about 4 mm" and that "the bleaching compound is selected from the group consisting of: sodium dialkyl sulfosuccinates; and organic bisulfites; inorganic bisulfites." The former is supported at page 11, line 30, and the later is supported at page 7, lines 23-32.

Claim 19 – 20 are amended as supported at page 12, lines 2-8.

Claim 21 is amended to cover a preferred embodiment wherein the plasticizer levels are specified as supported at page 5, line 11 *et seq.*, a YID and manufacturing temperature as supported at page 6, line 22 – page 8, line 11, and to specify the bleaching compound as supported in the first full paragraph on page 8 of the specification.

Claim 22 is amended as supported at page 12, lines 2-8.

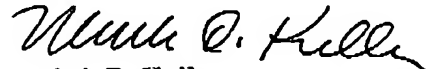
Entry and consideration are respectfully requested.

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In view of the foregoing, allowance of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested. Should there remain any matters unresolved by this response, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number in order to expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: November 17, 2006